

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) A method for treating or preventing an immune system deficiency, comprising administering to a subject an oligonucleotide containing an unmethylated cytosine-guanine to treat ~~or prevent~~ the immune system deficiency, wherein the oligonucleotide is stabilized, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises 5'-TCAACGTT-3', 5'-TGACGTT-3', or 5'TGACGTC3', wherein the oligonucleotide comprises a phosphorothioate modification wherein the immune system deficiency is due to a cancer, viral infection or a bacterial infection.

29-30. (Canceled).

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the oligonucleotide is linked to a nucleic acid delivery complex.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the nucleic acid delivery complex is a cationic lipid.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the oligonucleotide is covalently linked to the nucleic acid delivery complex.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the oligonucleotide is ionically linked to or encapsulated in the nucleic acid delivery complex.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the nucleic acid delivery complex is a sterol.

36. (Canceled).

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the subject is human.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein the oligonucleotide is administered orally.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the oligonucleotide is administered by injection.

40. (Previously Presented and Withdrawn in Part) The method of claim 39, wherein the injection is subcutaneous, intravenous, or parenteral.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein the oligonucleotide is administered transdermally.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the oligonucleotide is in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the oligonucleotide is 8-40 nucleotides in length.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the unmethylated cytosine-guanine is flanked by two 5' purines and two 3' pyrimidines.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises 5' X₁X₂CGX₃X₄ 3', wherein C and G are unmethylated, X₁, X₂, X₃, and X₄ are nucleotides and a GCG trinucleotide sequence is not present at or near the 5' and 3' termini.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the oligonucleotide includes at least two unmethylated cytosine-guanine motifs.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein at least one of the at least two unmethylated cytosine-guanine motifs is not palindromic.